

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
June 24, 2002**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on June 24, 2002 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	List of Available GIS Data
Attachment 5	List of Potential Key Observation Points (KOPs) / Field Review
Attachment 6	Example of KOP Write-Ups / Pictures
Attachment 7	Aesthetic Resource Inventory Forms

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

Action Items – April 22, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting

A summary of the April 22, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item #LU38: Review and refine preliminary list of KOPs.
Status: The preliminary list of KOPs (Key Observation Points) has been refined based on coordination with DWR, the consulting team and input from the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group. The current list is still considered preliminary and will likely be modified as a result of additional public input and requests from other Work Groups. This topic was discussed in detail as part of agenda item III (see below).

Carry Over Action Item

Action Item #LU32: Distribute list of available GIS data to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group.
Status: Jim Martin, Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Resource Area Manager (RAM) for DWR distributed the current list of available GIS data to the Work Group participants (see Attachment 4). The list organizes the data into several categories: ArcView shapefiles, project area digital-ortho quarter quads, and 7.5-minute quads. At this time, a limited amount of data is available via the Internet; the remaining data is available to DWR staff on DWR's intranet site. There are plans to place most of the GIS data on the publicly accessible Internet site.

Project Updates

The Facilitator provided updates on the status of several work group / task force activities, including the Cultural Resource Work Group, Recreation and Socioeconomic Work Group, Environmental Work Group, Modeling Protocol Task Force, and the Cumulative Impacts Approach/ESA Task Force.

The cultural resource studies have started with good progress being made on SP-CR1. Several archeological teams are in the field checking previously recorded sites and recording newly discovered ones. The ethnographic interviews will begin soon.

The recreation studies have also commenced and field surveys began over the Memorial Day weekend. There have been minor setbacks associated with the traffic counter equipment but the problem is in the process of being resolved. The survey field crew is experiencing good response rates to date and on schedule to collect the desired number of surveys.

The Environmental Work Group has initiated several studies and continues to develop and refine several fishery study plans. Technical task forces continue to develop and revise study plans that will be reviewed at upcoming Environmental Work Group and Plenary Group meetings.

The Modeling Protocol Task Force is in the process of preparing summary documents for the various models that will be used as part of the relicensing process and will present the set of summaries to the Plenary Group when completed.

The Cumulative Impacts Approach/ESA Task Force has not been able to reach a consensus on the draft guidance document to be used in addressing cumulative impacts and Endangered Species Act issues. The National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service participants on the Task Force were not comfortable with language included in the draft document and decided to each prepare a letter outlining their guidance on these issues. Meanwhile, the Task Force agreed to proceed with its version of the guidance document and rather than spend anymore time revising the language, provide the draft to all of the other Work Groups so they can develop any necessary study plan tasks to address cumulative and ESA effects.

Field Crew Notification

One participant asked if the field crews were all properly notifying local agencies when implementing the various study plans. The Facilitator responded that notification procedures do exist for field crews, but was not clear as to the extent of these procedures. While DWR and Department of Parks and Recreation are notified when and where field crews are working, other individuals/groups have requested notification, including the County District Attorney. The Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group participants also felt that it would be appropriate to contact the local sheriff's office.

Key Observation Points Identification

Jim Martin and Josh Teigiser with the consulting team provided an update on the status of identifying and evaluating key observation points (KOPs) for use in SP-L4 (Aesthetics). A refined but still preliminary list of KOPs was distributed to the Work Group (see Attachment 5). The handout provides a summary of KOPs, as well as initial field information that was developed during the period June 11-June 13, 2002. Supplemental handouts provided to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group include sample summary write-ups for several of the KOPs evaluated to date (see Attachment 6) and an Aesthetic Inventory Form (see Attachment 7).

The Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group reviewed the purpose for developing and evaluating KOPs. First, KOPs provide FERC with a representative depiction of the

project area. In addition, KOPs can be used to illustrate differences in the aesthetic appearance of project facilities at different pool elevations or project operations, if any, that may be associated with the conditions of the new license. KOPs can also provide a baseline against which changes in land use (e.g., potential recreational facilities) that may result as part of the project can be evaluated. If significant visual changes are identified as resulting from the potential recreation facility, measures (e.g., landscaping plans) may be proposed to minimize visual aesthetic aspect in planning the new facility. Other work groups can also use this baseline information in the development of project facility plans.

Additional locations that have been identified by Work Group participants as potential KOPs include the spillway, locations within the Oroville Wildlife Area, restroom facilities at Stringtown, Enterprise boat launch, and Craig access. Josh also explained that KOPs from the lake are included as potential KOPs.

Josh also explained that the preliminary KOP write-ups distributed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group are only examples of the format to familiarize the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group with the type of information included in a typical visual assessment but the final evaluations will be more detailed.

Update on Proposed BLM Land Transfer

Jim Martin informed the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group that DWR had met with representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) since the last Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting, and provided the participants with a brief history of the process to date which began when DPR applied for the BLM land in 1993. Approximately 8,500 acres (verify the number is accurate) are within or adjacent to the FERC project boundary based on a recent draft BLM fact sheet.

Two methods have been identified to complete the transfer: (1) the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) process or (2) a legislative process. The R&PP process would require environmental studies (which may be completed as part of the relicensing studies) and includes a reversion potential whereby the property may be transferred back to BLM if certain conditions are not met. The legislative option would require either a 'stand-alone- bill or a rider to another bill. In general, the legislative process is "cleaner", but would require political support to initiate the process and could take longer to complete.

Leslie Steidl expressed concern that if lands were transferred from the federal government to the State of California, the penalties associated with archeological site looting would be reduced. Also, she asked DWR to insure that the GPS units being used by field crews are compatible since the KOPs are identified by latitude and longitude while the Cultural Resources field crews are using UTM. Jim Martin agreed to notify the other RAMS of this concern.

The next step in the land transfer process as it relates to the relicensing process is to track the status of future actions between DPR and BLM. At this point, DWR may not be interested in acquiring the land itself.

Update on Study Plans

There are five Land Use study plans, all of which have been approved by the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group and the Plenary Group. Of the five study plans, four have been developed into task orders that have been executed by DWR (i.e., SP-L1, SP-L2, SP-L4, and SP-L5). SP-L3 was not considered critical-path, but will be developed into a task order in the near future. Work has commenced on those studies with approved task orders. It was clarified that the product of the study plans will be study reports that will provide information for the relicensing application.

Next Meeting and Next Steps

The participants agreed that monthly Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meetings are not required at this point in the process. There was consensus that the meeting schedule should be based on the schedule for deliverables associated with the study plans. As such, the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group agreed to cancel their July 2002 meeting. The August meeting date will be held, but may be cancelled based on the progress of the study plans. The Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group will be notified in early August as to the status of the August Work Group meeting. If a meeting is held in August, it will be located in Sacramento with teleconferencing capabilities available for those who cannot attend the meeting. The next tentative Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting will be:

Date: Monday, August 19, 2002
Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Location: Sacramento (teleconferencing will be available)

Agreements Made

1. The Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group agreed to cancel the July 2002 Work Group meeting.

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #LU39: Verify existing procedure for notification of proper agencies, including the local District Attorney and Sheriff's office, prior to starting daily field-work.

Responsible: DWR / Consultant Team

Due Date: Ongoing

Action Item #LU39: Check that GPS measurement units used in identifying KOPs are compatible with units used by other Work Groups (e.g., Cultural Work Group using UTM coordinates)

Responsible: DWR/Consultant Team

Due Date: August 19, 2002